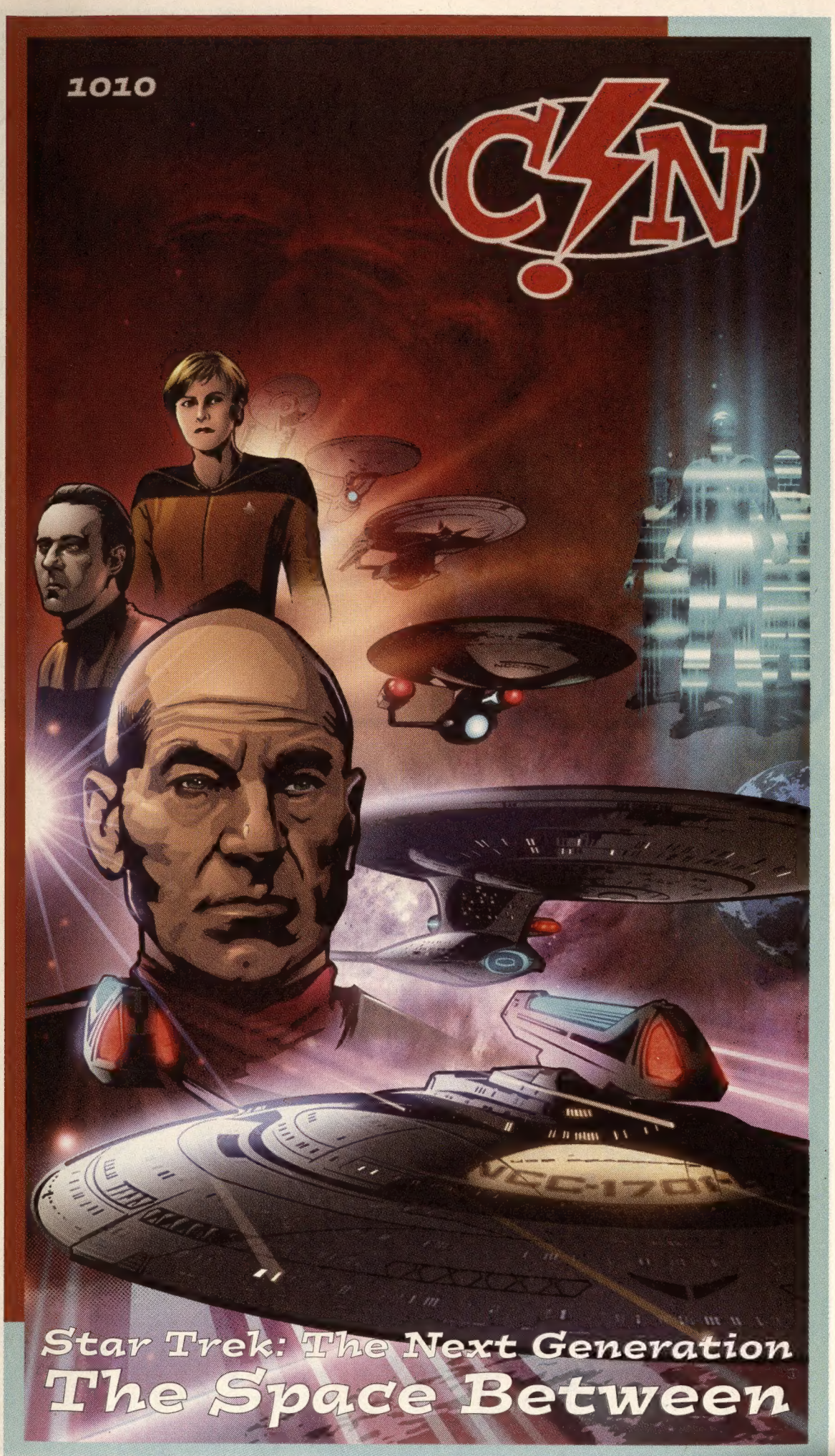
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C!N
Star Trek: The Next Generation
The Space Between

A New Generation of Next Generation at IDW

Hard to believe, but it's been twenty years since ***Star Trek: The Next Generation*** made its television debut. While a new ***ST:TNG*** television series is off the table, the franchise is returning with all-new adventures in *another* words-and-pictures medium, thanks to IDW Publishing.

In January, IDW kicks off their newly-acquired ***Star Trek*** license with an original six-part ***Star Trek: The Next Generation*** series. IDW and ***Star Trek*** seem a perfect match: the publisher has a proven track record with successful licensed properties, and ***Star Trek*** is owned by CBS, the same company with whom IDW works on its licensed ***CSI*** books.

IDW publisher and editor-in-chief *Chris Ryall* explained how the deal came about. "After years of doing ***CSI*** comics, we've developed a solid relationship with CBS/Paramount. I'd been talking about their plans for ***Star Trek*** for some time, and through our discussions, we got to talking about comics, and what we'd do with the franchise if we took it over. Eventually, that turned into us being granted the comics license."

While ***Star Trek*** isn't a white-hot property right now, it probably has more name recognition than any other licensed SF property this side of ***Star Wars***—and that made it a very appealing addition to IDW's line. "The franchise has had its ups and downs, but so has any forty-year-old franchise - just ask James Bond fans or Spider-Man fans. From the perspective of comic books, while many publishers have shepherded the comics at one point or another, it's been years since there was ongoing ***Star Trek*** comics."

CBS, eager to see ***Star Trek*** return in an ongoing format, is coordinating every aspect of the project with IDW. "They've been great about giving us freedom to tell any stories we want. For example, with ***TNG***, we can pick up from any point in the series or movies, whatever makes the most sense to a particular idea. That said, I've done enough licensed comics here to know that I have a better chance of getting stories approved if they don't involve, say, Picard getting a big facial scar or Tasha coming back to life.

"*Paula Block* at CBS is incredibly knowledgeable about all ***Star Trek*** lore, from all the incarnations of the TV shows to the movies to all the novels and comics, so she's been a big help in letting us know if a similar idea has been approached before. So we have the benefit of seeing what's come before to know what has a good chance of not only being approved by CBS, but being something fans will approve of, too."

CBS is working with IDW on a book-by-book basis to ensure that the comics remain loyal to the ***Star Trek*** canon. "I really wouldn't want to work any other way, actually, so you don't get caught on something at the end that might have slipped by before," Ryall explained. "We've done enough licensed books that the approval process is something I'm comfortable with, and having each issue approved one at a time works fine. That said, Paula's really the only issue-by-issue arbiter on CBS's end, so it's not like we have to get Patrick Stewart's approval for every page of every issue. We just nail things down with the likenesses at the start."

The first project from IDW will be the six-part ***Star Trek: The Next Generation—The Space Between,*** a six-part adventure by *David Tischman & Casey Maloney,* with covers by *Jeremy Geddes, Zach Howard,* and *Dennis Calero,* among others. "It's set sometime during the Enterprise-D's first year," said Ryall, who was reluctant to reveal much more about the arc. He did add, though, that "Tischman's also got a *great* idea for a first miniseries set in the ***Original Series*** timeline, but I can't really say anything more about that at this point (Year Four!)."

As you might expect, there's no shortage of interested writers and artists out there who have their own ***Star Trek*** dream projects. "I've certainly heard from a wide array of creators on this one, yeah. Love of ***Star Trek*** crosses generations, which is really exciting—I've heard from veteran writers and new guys and people from other mediums, all of whom have a good ***Star Trek*** tale in them. As soon as I can announce more plans involving some of these people, I will."

With ***Star Trek: The Next Generation*** starting in January, how much longer will fans have to wait for a new ***Star Trek: Original Series*** comic from IDW? "It's not set just yet, but it'll definitely debut in 2007, with a story I'm pretty excited about, but can't talk about yet (Year Four!)... did I mention that already?"

Will IDW gradually expand their lien to include other ***Star Trek*** properties? "I'm certainly open to more, and there's already been quite a groundswell for some ***Deep Space 9*** comics. So let's see how things go, but if we can make this work properly, by all means, I'd love to do some ***DS9*** books and maybe some others as well."

And what about as-yet-undeveloped-for-television-or-film concepts like a "Young Kirk and Spock in Starfleet Academy" book or somesuch? That is, will IDW have the freedom to expand the ***Star Trek*** franchise into something new, should the right idea come up? "It's an option, and one we've talked about with Paramount, but for now, I'd like to concentrate on re-visiting some beloved characters and universes," Ryall said. "But depending on where the new *J.J. Abrams* movie goes, that could be interesting at some point, too. Although frankly, I'm leaning more toward doing stories based around the ***Star Trek*** world's alien races as the stars than I am exploring Starfleet's Academy."

What about crossovers? Any chance we'll see another Kirk-Picard meeting, for instance? "No plans for that right now, "Ryall said. "I really want to avoid doing big stunts or crossovers or 'epics' in the books right now. Too often, those big epics spin out of control, and character and story are lost under all the shocks and marketing hooks.

"I think ***Star Trek*** comics don't need that, and indeed, some of the best episodes—from any era—have been those that just focus on science-based ideas and tell good stories. We're trying to approach this from an 'episodic' standpoint, and our first stories will have more in common with TV in September rather than, say, November sweeps. Good, compelling, audience-grabbing stories, but no contrived multi-part epics. So for those counting on seeing Khan's ghost haunt the Mirror Universe or something—well, you might have to wait a bit longer..."

Does IDW plan to offer only one book for each television series, or does Ryall foresee a time when their ***Star Trek*** line might resemble Dark Horse's ***Star Wars*** franchise, offering an array of titles each month with some characters appearing in more than one monthly book? "We're starting out slowly so as not to glut the market with ***Star Trek*** product, but yeah, I can see running more than one title at some point, especially once we start ***TOS*** comics as well."

IDW and Paramount/CBS are also calculating the best way to get word of these comics out to the legions of ***Star Trek*** fans who might not normally visit comic shops. "We're talking about many things we can do, yes. And not to say anything more at the moment, but a few weeks ago, I got a phone call that started out '*Chris Ryall*? Hold for *William Shatner*,' and then went on from there..."

Star Trek: The Next Generation—The Space Between #1 is scheduled for January release.

by Cliff Biggers

Courtesy your friendly neighborhood comics outlet!

Comic Shop Newsarama

Produced by Comic Shop News in cooperation with Matt Brady and newsarama.com

Warren Ellis' Thunderous Revelation

It's been more than a decade since *Kurt Busiek & Mark Bagley* launched ***Thunderbolts,*** the story of a team of super-villains turned heroes. While the premise will remain the same for the foreseeable future, the lineup is about to take a potentially dangerous turn—as readers if ***Civil War #4*** have already witnessed.

At the end of that issue, the comics world saw the shocking formation of a brand-new team of Thunderbolts comprised of some of the most evil super-villains in the Marvel Universe. But these aren't the only new members of the team. Beginning in early 2007, the Thunderbolts will debut a volatile new roster... and a high-profile new creative team.

Starting with ***Thunderbolts #110,*** *Warren Ellis & Mike Deodato* will tell the story of the all-new, all-deadly squad comprised of: Venom, lethal protector. The enigmatic Moonstone. Bullseye, the man who never misses. Songbird, mistress of sound. Chen Lu, the Radioactive Man. Swordsman, master of the blade. The mystery man called Penance. And Norman Osborn, the Green Goblin.

What could motivate these bad guys to join the other side? Well, howsabout a free shot at all those secret, unregistered superhumans who refuse to get in line with the Superhero Registration Act?

In the wake of ***Civil War,*** Ellis & Deodato present a dark and disturbing take on Marvel's most wanted, where the line between hero and villain is difficult to find—if it exists at all! To commemorate this major ***Thunderbolts*** revamp, the first six issues of the Ellis/Deodato run will feature interlocking variant covers produced by the six ***Young Guns: Reloaded*** artists: *Leinil Yu, Ariel Olivetti, Pasqual Ferry, Clayton Crain, Simone Bianchi,* and *Billy Tan.*

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Marvel editor-in-chief *Joe Quesada* explained the ***Thunderbolts'*** new concept. "The specific mission statement of this new iteration of the Thunderbolts is to hunt down and apprehend unregistered superhumans—whether they're ostensibly heroes or villains. Besides, in many cases, who better to hunt down a hero than someone who has battled against that very same hero time after time— only now they can do it legally?"

Civil War writer *Mark Millar,* who came up with the idea behind the team, explained how it all came about. "Well, when I said I'd write a summer crossover for Marvel I said from the start it was only worth doing if it meant I could use the series as a way of giving the line a make-over of sorts...

"My idea for Thunderbolts, very simply, was that it should employ the same strategy as New Avengers and JLA in that if we have a team, why not make it the A-Team in the sense that they're all recognizable names? Sure, these guys would be harder to control, but that also takes the story in interesting new directions. I really started to see the Marvel Universe in terms of pre and post-***Civil War,*** and the ***Thunderbolts*** line-up was one of the big changes."

As far as Marvel's choice in writers is concerned, Millar added, "Who else could be better at writing a team of super-villains than that cantankerous old English bastard?!"

So what happens to Baron Zemo, leader of the *old* Thunderbolts? His story will continue in February in an all-new limited series, ***Zemo: Born Better,*** written by *Fabian Nicieza.*

Ins & Outs

Out: *Steve Wacker,* editor of DC's hit 52 series, who has moved across town to assume editorial duties at Marvel. "Most of the hubbub around my leaving DC is naturally based around 52," Wacker said, "but I worked on a lot of books at DC that had wonderful talent and good friends attached. Most recently ***Legion of Super-Heroes*** (with *Barry Kitson & Mick Gray*), and ***JSA*** (with *Dale Eaglesham, Art Thibert, & Alex Ross*). Both titles have outstanding stuff coming up, so I look forward to the competition." No word yet on what books he will be editing at Marvel.

So what's going to happen with *52?* Well, keep on reading to see who's...

In: *Michael Siglain,* who's stepped up to the plate and will devote the next few months of his life to directing the must-read weekly series. As Siglain told ***Comic Shop Newsarama's*** *Matt Brady,* before inheriting *52* "I was editing ***Jonah Hex, Firestorm,*** and ***Scooby-Doo,*** and was also working with Senior Editor *Peter Tomasi* on ***Batman, Detective, Nightwing, Robin, Green Lantern, Green Lantern Corps,*** and ***Seven Soldiers.***" Regarding his new assignment, Siglain added, "Steve did an amazing job on *52,* and left some very big shoes to fill. Luckily, I have big feet."

In: Foolkiller, who's returning in a Marvel MAX series written by crime novelist *Gregg Hurwitz* and illustrated by *Juan Barranco.* Look for the first issue in the spring of 2007.

Out: *Manny Trembley & Eric A. Anderson's* ***Sam Noir: Samurai Detective #1,*** which has sold out at Image "Just to have ***Sam Noir*** published through Shadowline/Image was a milestone for me, and to see the reaction we've gotten so far resulting in the issue selling out is honestly more than I could have imagined," Trembly said. There are no current plans for a reprinting.

A Dark Knight Delayed

It was almost a half decade ago that *John Ostrander* posted on his message board that he wished he could do a Batman story with his long-time ***Spectre*** collaborator *Tom Mandrake.* His post read: "He should really have been given a Bats book years ago; he's got the feel and flair for it. Of course, I'd like to do just about *any* character with Tom."

Well, apparently wishes do come true, even though it might take a while. Beginning December, Ostrander and Mandrake are kicking off a four-part ***Batman*** story arc. DCU Executive Editor *Dan DiDio* explained to ***Comic Shop Newsarama's*** *Benjamin Ong Pang Kean* how it came about.

"I knew that [***Batman*** editor] *Peter Tomasi* had put together a four part arc with *John Ostrander & Tom Mandrake,* and I decided to insert that four-part story into the regular run of ***Batman,*** not only because I wanted to make sure everybody got a chance to see it, because I thought it was a really special story, but also I wanted to give Grant and Andy a little time to catch their breath and to make sure that the book stayed on time and on schedule—that's something that we're all very aware of right now."

DiDio explained that Morrison & Kubert weren't behind schedule, but their ***Batman*** was running right up against the deadline, with no leeway for creative, editorial, or production changes. "We found a good spot where Andy and Grant were getting ready to start their next arc, and this story by John and Tom just steps in between that," DiDio said. "It gives them a couple of months to get everything on full schedule, so that nothing is being rushed, and can all come out the way we want it to."

While some books are "regularly late," DiDio felt that ***Batman*** couldn't be allowed to join that list. "There are certain books that I feel we can take fewer liberties with: ***Batman, Superman, Action*** and ***Detective,***" Didio said. "They can't miss because of the history, the numbering, and what it represents to the company. So, from my standpoint, when we go into those books, we have to go into those books with the understanding that at some point, we're going to break the run of particular talent.

"We're doing it in different ways, whether it's a different artist, or a different team, like we're doing with Batman here. We want to make sure we're maintaining the quality all the way through, so it doesn't feel like it's a fill-in, and that you're getting the real value of the book and the character with every issue."

Ostrander explained that his story "certainly will be consistent with current character and continuity. It's going to be a detective story and we've tried to create a villain in the classic Batman mold with Grotesk. There's tons of action (which makes Tom

very happy) and really stunning visuals."

Why a new villain rather than a veteran member of Batman's rogues gallery? "There's been *so* much done with all those characters, and I don't think any of us want to be accused of simply doing a retread.

"In my case, I can say that there's a desire to see if you can create a character with the resonance and impact of the classic characters. It also gives the reader a chance for a sense of discovery - that they were there the first time these two characters clashed."

His creation, Grotesk, is a villain who lives up to his name. "As I said , a prime motivator was to see if we could develop a villain in the mold of the classic villains. Early Batman was influenced, I think, in the development of the villains by early Dick Tracy. Tracy, at that time, fought a stunning rogues gallery of grotesque characters. There also was usually something physically abnormal about them. So we started from the same concept—what makes this character grotesque and how did they become that way? From that we molded the character."

Batman #660, the first installment of the four-part biweekly Ostrander-Mandrake storyline, is scheduled for mid-December release.

Alias Gets Religion

From its inception, Alias Comics has offered religiously-themed books as a part of its line of comics. Beginning in early 2007, however, the publisher will shift its focus, publishing an "all-Christian" line of comics and bringing its non-religious books to a close as various series and story arcs wrap up.

While Alias has had problems finding an audience for its imprint—problems that were exacerbated by irregular publishing schedules and difficulties with printers—it found an eager and growing market for its Christian books. Co-founder Brett Burner, who took over the company in late 2005, ultimately decided that the company could be more successful by focusing on its largest sub-market.

Alias has already landed a twenty-four book deal with Zondervain Publishing, is launching a Christian pop culture magazine, and is aggressively developing such properties as the Christian video series ***Angel Wars*** and *Ted Dekker's* ***Saint.***

"Most people don't realize the quality of literary work produced in the Christian Market," Burner, who stated he has been reading almost exclusively from the market for over twenty years, said in a release. "Stories like *C.S. Lewis'* ***Chronicles of Narnia*** and the more recent success of the ***Left Behind*** series have shown that work in this genre can transcend to all audiences. There is fantastic action, adventure, mystery and romance, and with some stories, the supernatural takes shape as angels and demons clash in spiritual warfare."

"We're going 'all-Christian,'" *Mike S. Miller* of Alias added. "It's just obvious that Alias needs to do this, and all the time and effort that goes into publishing other people's work for the secular market is taking time and effort away from the work where Alias is finding the most success financially as well as spiritually."

The company will not abandon its non-religious works already in progress. "Our 'official' change takes effect January 2007," Burner explained. "We've made commitments to our studios to publish their series and mini-series through December 2006—with the exception of the ***Bluewater Lost Raven*** graphic novel releasing in February 2007 and the ***Pistolfist*** mini-series concluding in March 2007."

"Alias will continue to publish books like ***Daniel, David: The Shepherd's Song, David's Mighty Men, Opposite Forces,*** and ***Armor Quest,*** as well as several new titles still in the planning and development stages," Miller said. "All the other books we will continue to sell through available stock until it is sold out, but we won't produce any new works that aren't Christian themed in one way or another. We also aren't canceling any mini-series mid story arc, and we're trying to wrap up any ongoing series at the end of the current story arc. We don't want to leave readers hanging.

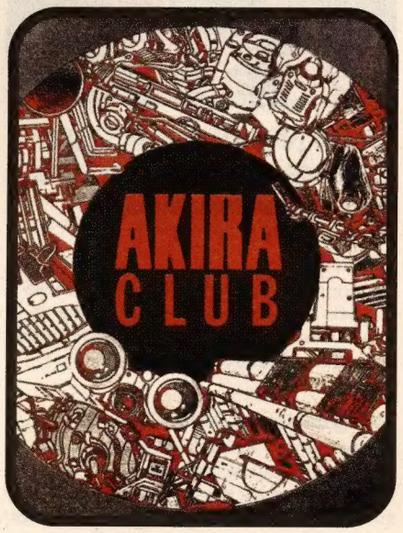
"The mini-series will all wrap up; that includes ***Hyper-Actives, Revere*** and ***Pistolfist.*** We've canceled ***Semi-Auto Angel,*** because we didn't want to start a new series after making this decision. As I said, we don't want to chop stories off mid-arc, but I don't have answers for what issue will be the last for ongoing titles like ***Tenth Muse*** and ***Legend of Isis.***"

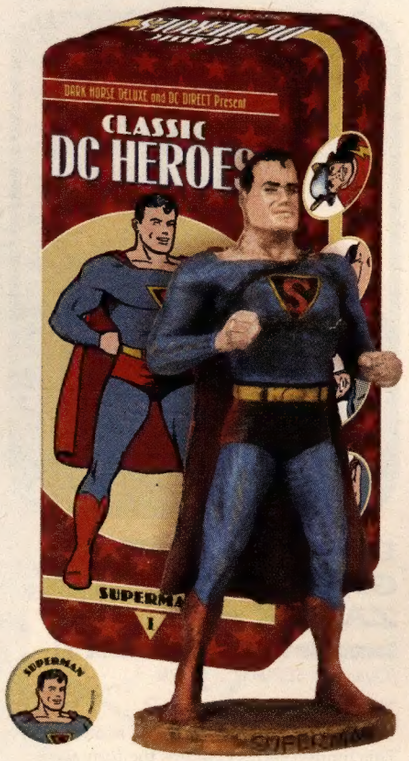
The list of soon to be homeless secular titles also includes some of Miller's own work, including ***Lullaby, The Imaginaries,*** and ***Sixgun Samurai.*** "I will announce what is happening with my books shortly," Miller said. "As for other books, we're working to get them in front of other publishers, but nothing concrete has happened to date."

While the religious market is Alias' obvious focus, the company will continue to offer its books through comic shops. "Whether by Alias, or by the publishers for which Alias is producing work, the direct market will still be a target market we intend to reach."

Coming Comics Dark Horse in January

Fans of *Katsuhiro Otomo's* internationally acclaimed best-seller ***Akira*** need to make a little more room on their bookshelves, because a companion volume is on the way. ***Akira Club*** is described by Dark Horse as "an essential companion to Akira, a dazzling collection of Otomo's mind-blowing visions, including over one hundred title-page illustrations created for the original serialization but not included with the published collections of ***Akira.***" The book also features rarely seen alternate art, preliminary drawings, production sketches, and a variety of ***Akira*** posters, advertisements, and products, all accompanied by fascinating commentary by the artist himself.





The DC/Dark Horse syroco-style statue collaboration kicks off in 2007 with the release of ***Classic DC Characters #1: Superman.*** Limited to 2000 pieces, each statuette is packaged in a litho-printed full-color tin box and includes a vintage-style pinback button, and booklet about the character

Dark Horse's line of syroco-style statues based on the creations of *Charles Schultz* continues with the release of the ***Classic Peanuts Characters #4: Schroeder.*** Limited to 1200 pieces, each statue is packaged with a booklet and a button.

Conan: Demons of Khitai illustrator *Paul Lee* joins writer *Timothy Truman* for a sequel to *Robert E. Howard's* "The Phoenix & the Sword" in ***Conan #36.*** This issue finds Conan reluctantly allied with a mysterious Pictish witch as he ventures into the depths of the ocean to find the only weapon that can stop a malevolent Prophet.

Joshua Dysart & Tone Rodriguez focus on the older Conan in ***Conan and the Midnight God,*** a five-issue limited series. Readers will meet a married Conan, king of Aquilonia—but "married" doesn't mean "settled," as this story demonstrates. When his bride and country are attacked by a sinister Stygian sorcerer, Conan strikes back at Stygia with all his might—and the might of Aquilonia—in a move that threatens to throw all Hyboria into chaos!

Dark Horse continues its Hellboy animated line with the ***Hellboy Animated Mini-Bust,*** a 7" sculpt based on the animated version of *Mike Mignola's* monster-hunter.

More than a half-century ago, *Arnold Drake* teamed with co-writer *Leslie Waller* and artist *Matt Baker* to create an ahead-of-its-time work, a novel-length comic targeted at older readers. Together, they crafted a film-noir inspired masterwork of romance, intrigue, and moral relativity. Now that story, considered by some to be the first graphic novel, is coming into print in ***It Rhymes With Lust,*** a painstakingly restored replica volume that includes a new introduction by Drake.

Dark Horse is teaming with ReelArts Studio to offer a number of statues inspired by film, adventure fiction, and comics. The first wave of offerings include ***Going Ape Statue,*** a sculpture by Jason "Spyda" Adams that is quite reminiscent of a well-known ape-raised noble savage; ***William Stout's Number One Statue,*** depicting a scene from *Edgar Rice Burroughs'* ***The Monster Men; William Stout's Dino-Girl,*** the first line of Stout-designed "Cutie Pies"; ***The Three Stooges Wall Plaque,*** limited to 1000 copies; ***Blue Bulleteer Statue,*** depicting the AC Comics character; ***Attack of the Brain Monster Statue,*** based on the 1950's 3D SF film; and ***Gil Evgren's Suzanne Statue,*** based on the work of the classic pinup artist.

- ***Star Wars 30th Anniversary Collection Volume one: The Freedon Nadd Uprising,*** a hardcover edition of the long-out-of-print ***Star Wars*** adventure;

Stan Sakai's ***Usagi Yojimbo*** reaches the century mark in January—and to celebrate, Sakai calls on some of his friends to contribute to ***Usagi Yojimbo #100,*** including *Sergio Aragones, Guy Davis, Mark Evanier, Rick Geary, Frank Miller, Jamie Rich, Mike Richardson, Scott Shaw, Jeff Smith, & Andi Watson.*

Dark Horse collected editions include:

- ***The Courageous Princess,*** collecting the fantasy tale by *Rod Espinosa* originally published by Antarctic Press;
- ***Criminal Macabre: Supernatural Freak Machine*** by *Steve Niles, Kelley Jones, & Tim Bradstreet;*
- ***Emily the Strange Volume One: Cosmic Debris,*** collecting ***Emily the Strange #s 1-3*** along with two brand new stories;
- ***Fafhrd & the Gray Mouser,*** collecting *Howard Chaykin & Mike Mignola's* long-out-of-print adaptation of *Fritz Leiber's* heroic fantasy tale; and
- ***Star Wars: Boba Fett—Man With a Mission,*** featuring 104 pages of never-before-reprinted Boba Fett tales.

November's Top Twenty Comics

AVENGERS: EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES II #1

Joe Casey (W); Will Rosado (A)
(Marvel SEP062095 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

The old new Avengers are the focus of this "in-fill" series that focuses on the early days of the Goliath-Wasp-Hawkeye-Black Panther-Vision team. How does Goliath deal with his new leadership role? How will the public react towards the android Avenger? And how will the team fare without its high-profile charter members?

Why Should You Care?

Joe Casey once again demonstrates his impressive skill at weaving new storytelling into classic sagas from the past; this time around, he's taking a new look at the late-1960's Avengers, proving that there are Silver Age tales yet to be told!

BATMAN/ THE SPIRIT

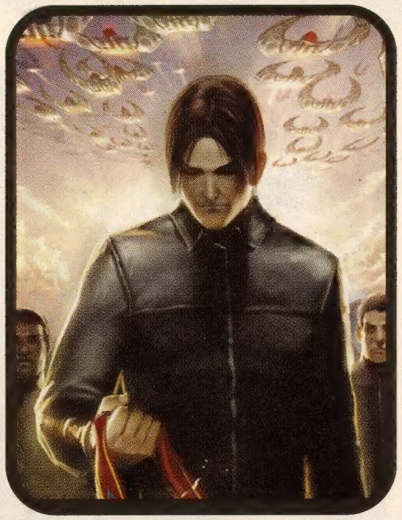
Jeph Loeb & Darwyn Cooke (W); Darwyn Cooke (A)
(DC SEP060190 $4.99; also available in a signed edition (SEP063290 $29.99))

What's the Scoop?

The American Criminologist Association is holding its annual convention... and so are the criminals they seek to outwit! That includes Batman's rogues gallery as well as the Spirit's offbeat adversaries, which is enough of a challenge that it requires both Bruce Wayne and Denny Colt to don their masks in order to save the day!

Why Should You Care?

Jeph Loeb joins with co-writer and artist *Darwyn Cooke* for this memorable meeting that paves the way for DC's upcoming ***Spirit*** ongoing series.



BATTLESTAR GALACTICA: ZAREK #1

Brandon Jerwa (W); Adriano Batista (A)
(Dynamite SEP063213 $3.50)

What's the Scoop?

Tom Zarek—revolutionary or visionary? This limited series explores the formative years of one of the most controversial figures from the new ***Galactica.***

Why Should You Care?

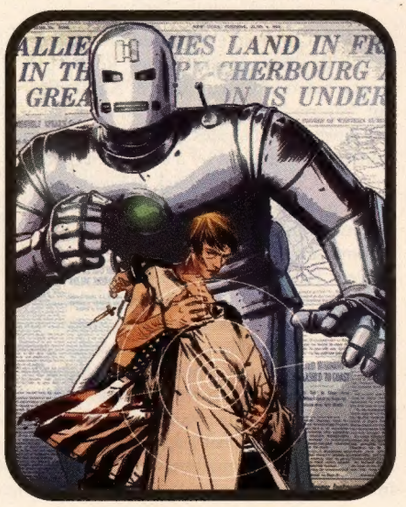
Forget throwaway storylines that exist outside of series continuity—***Zarek*** is a comic that offers oodles of character details that you won't find on television!

BULLET POINTS #1

J. Michael Straczynski (W); Tommy Lee Edwards (A)
(Marvel SEP062099 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

On the eve of Steve Rogers' transformation into America's Super-Soldier, a killer's bullet claims the life of Dr. Erskine, the inventor of the super-soldier serum. From this point, a chain of surprising and unpredictable changes rattle the Marvel Universe.



Why Should You Care?

Think of this as the uber-*What If?*, showing just how much of a difference one death can make.

CIVIL WAR #5

Mark Millar (W); Steve McNiven (A)
(Marvel JUL061952 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

While the heroes are facing off against one another, who's keeping an eye on the villains? One man certainly is... and his name is Frank Castle, but the world knows him by another *nom de guerre...*

Why Should You Care?

The darkest moment in Marvel hero history is the inspiration for the Punisher's return into the mainstream Marvel Universe.

CONNOR HAWKE: DRAGON'S BLOOD #1

Chuck Dixon (W); Derec Donovan (A)
(DC SEP060229 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

Connor heads halfway around the globe to compete in a world-class archery competition... but someone is planning to shoot at more than a bullseye once the contest begins!

Why Should You Care?

Oliver Queen's first sidekick has graduated to Justice League status; now his second sidekick—and his son—gets his time in the spotlight in this action-packed limited series.

CROSSING MIDNIGHT #1

Mike Carey (W); Jim Fern & Rob Hunter (A)
(Vertigo/DC SEP060304 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

Two twins are born in contemporary Japan—each on the opposite side of midnight from the other. You might not think that such a minor thing could matter, but its ramifications are amazing... and terrifying.

Why Should You Care?

Vertigo returns to its horror roots with this foreboding series that draws from Japanese and Korean horror while adding mythic overtones.

CYBERFORCE/ X-MEN #1

Ron Marz (W); Pat Lee (A)
(Image SEP061866 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

What threat could be big enough to require the attention of both the X-Men and Cyberforce? Well, the Sentinels are pretty darn big!...

Why Should You Care?

The same creative team responsible for the Cyberforce relaunch brings Top Cow's super-team face-to-face with Marvel's mutants in case of potentially deadly mistaken identity.

FANTASTIC FOUR: THE END #1

Alan Davis (W/A)
(Marvel SEP062109 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

Once, they were the Marvel Universe's "super-family," an indivisible super-team. So what could have led to their breakup, and what ramifications will it have in the Marvel Universe?

Why Should You Care?

Alan Davis delivers a thought-provoking FF finale that may not seem too far-fetched, considering the current state of things in *Civil War.*

GUY GARDNER: COLLATERAL DAMAGE #1

Howard Chaykin (W/A)

(DC SEP060228 $5.99; also available signed by Chaykin (SEP063289 $19.99))

What's the Scoop?

When G'Nort finds himself in need of an arbiter to broker a peace deal, he realizes how important it is that he finds a reasonable, diplomatic, level-headed, neutral person to take on the task. So how'd he come to pick Guy Gardner?...

Why Should You Care?

Howard Chaykin both writes and illustrates this iconoclastic, in-your-face tale of the most volatile of all Green Lanterns—and somehow it seems vaguely appropriate, doesn't it?...

HELLGATE: LONDON #1

Ian Edginton (W); Steve Pugh (A)

(Dark Horse SEP060015 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

The war between humans and demons has raged for years with no end in sight... unless humanity can harness the power of the enigmatic SIGIL, an arcane symbol inscribed somewhere within the devastated city.

Why Should You Care?

Players who can't wait for the highly anticipated videogame can begin their trip through Hellgate early, thanks to Dark Horse!

IMMORTAL IRON FIST #1

Ed Brubaker & Matt Fraction (W); David Aja (A)

(Marvel SEP062117 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

Marvel fans know how Danny Rand became Iron Fist—but where di the Iron Fist uniform come from? Why was it left unused for years until Danny discovered it? Find out in this story that explores the past, present, and future of Iron Fist, the martial arts hero who recently stood in for Daredevil himself.

Why Should You Care?

Ed Brubaker, who transformed ***Daredevil*** into one of the most compelling reads on the stands today, joins co-writer *Matt Fraction* for this series that elevates Iron Fist to the A-class status he deserves.

MIDNIGHTER #1

Garth Ennis (W); Chris Sprouse & Karl Story (A)

(WildStorm/DC SEP060279 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

The Authority's most dangerous member is given a choice: kill a mass murderer or die. Oh, Midnighter will have no problems with the former... but this is one man who *doesn't* take kindly to an ultimatum...

Why Should You Care?

Who is better suited to chronicle the adventures of the Authority's most controversial member than *Garth Ennis,* one of comics' most controversial writers?

NEW AVENGERS #26

Brian Bendis (W); Alex Maleev (A)

(Marvel SEP062126 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

Hawkeye and the Scarlet Witch return... together. So where have they been? How is Hawkeye still alive? And why is he associating with the woman who caused his death?

Why Should You Care?

Brian Bendis joins former ***Daredevil*** collaborator *Alex Maleev* for a ***House of M*** sequel that paves the way for big Avengers events to come in 2007.

ONSLAUGHT REBORN #1

Jeph Loeb (W); Rob Liefeld (A)

(Marvel SEP062129 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

Ten years ago, the Avengers and the Fantastic Four leapt from the Marvelverse to their own world—with a little help from the malevolent Onslaught—in Marvel's ***Heroes Reborn*** revamp. Now Marvel revisits this alternate reality in a compelling limited series that brings back Onslaught... who in turn brings back fragments of that other universe with him!

Why Should You Care?

Rob Liefeld, one of two all-star creators behind ***Heroes Reborn,*** unites with storyteller par excellence *Jeph Loeb* for a tenth-anniversary look at this pre-***Ultimate*** comic-book-reality revamp. Even better, a goodly portion of the proceeds are going to a very worthwhile cause: the Sam Loeb Scholarship Fund, the same fund that benefited from the all-star ***Superman/Batman #26.***

PUNISHER WAR JOURNAL #1

Matt Fraction (W); Ariel Olivetti (A)

(Marvel JUL061988 $2.99; also available in a signed edition (JUL063115 $19.99))

What's the Scoop?

When the bad guys start carrying badges in order to target renegade superheroes who refuse to operate by the letter of the law, it's all too much for the Punisher, who's spent a little time of his own battling criminals while evading arrest at the hands of unappreciative law enforcement officials. If you think that means that there's no doubt about Castle's ***Civil War*** loyalties ... well, you're right!

Why Should You Care?

Frank Castle may have spent the past few years hanging out in MAX limbo, but he's back in the Marvelverse with a vengeance in this ***Civil War*** spinoff.

RED MENACE #1

Danny Bilson, Paul DeMeo, & Adam Brody (W); Jerry Ordway (A)

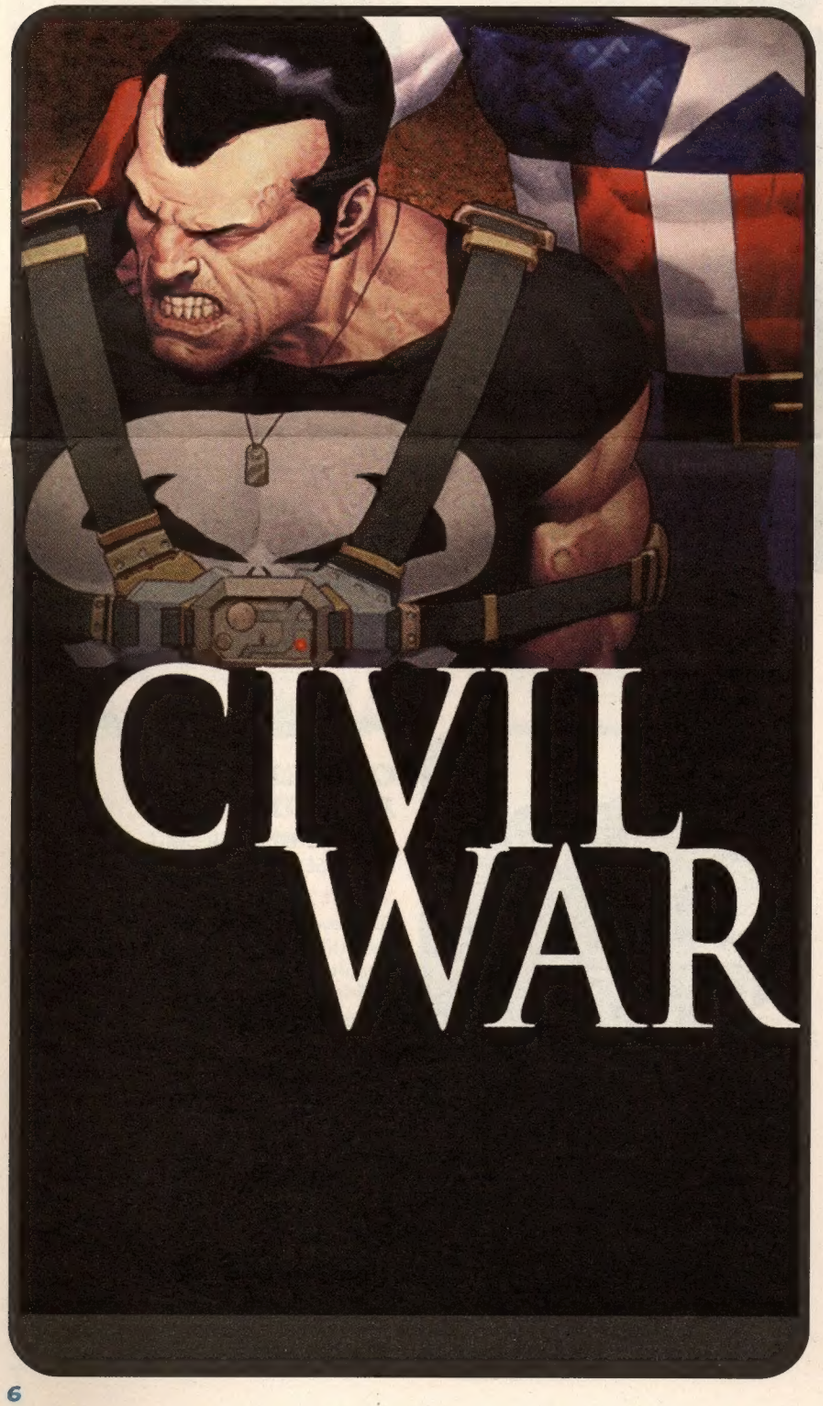
(WildStorm/DC SEP060274 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

The Eagle is the most patriotic hero that 1950's America has ever known... but no one is above suspicion when the House Un-American Activities Committee begins its investigation of potential communist threats from within—including super-powered threats.

Why Should You Care?

Danny Bilson & Paul DeMeo, the writers of ***The Flash*** join with ***The O.C.'s*** *Adam Brody* and veteran illustrator *Jerry Ordway* for a complex tale of heroism, conspiracy, and suspicion influenced by the notorious 1950's blacklistings.



STORMWATCH PHD #1

Christos Gage (W); Doug Mahnke (A)

(WildStorm/DC SEP060276 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

Former Weatherman Jackson King is assigned with the task of rebuilding the former UN crisis intervention team—but the big-budget days are over, and Jackson about to discover how challenging it can be to assemble his new Post-Human Division with bargain-basement funding.

Why Should You Care?

This new WorldStorm title revives one of WildStorm's biggest hits from the 1990s—the series that paved the way for ***The Authority.***

SUPERGIRL #12

Jimmy Palmiotti & Justin Gray (W); Amanda Conner (A)

(DC SEP060205 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

The all-new Terra makes her debut.

Why Should You Care?

This surprise storyline will pave the way for a ***Terra*** series next year—so why not get beat the rush and learn all about her now, rather than scrambling to find this one in the back-issue bins next year?

SUPERMAN CONFIDENTIAL #1

Darwyn Cooke (W); Tim Sale (A)

(DC SEP060206 $2.99; also available in a signed edition (SEP063288 $19.99))

What's the Scoop?

A new ongoing addition to the monthly ***Superman*** line debuts with a six-part story exploring Superman's first exposure to Kryptonite and its effects on his life.

Why Should You Care?

Superman Confidential explores pivotal events in the Man of Steel's history, enlisting the aid of top-tier talent—beginning with ***The New Frontier***'s *Darwyn Cooke* with ***Superman for All Seasons*** artist *Tim Sale*, whose work can also be seen on NBC's ***Heroes.***

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